CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 1. A stable aqueous antiplaque oral composition comprised of
 - (a) a safe and effective amount of an antibacterial ester represented by the formula

 NH_2

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$$\begin{bmatrix} R^2CONH\text{-}CH\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}NH\text{-}C\text{-}NH_2 \end{bmatrix}^+ X^-$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} COOR^1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- where R¹ is an alkyl chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and R² is an alkyl chain of 6 to 30 carbon atoms and X is an anion,
 - (b) a surfactant;
 - (c) a humectant; and,
 - (d) water
- wherein the composition is free of a monohydric alcohol.
 - 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein n = 3.
- 3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the antibacterial ester is the hydrochloride salt of ethyl lauroyl arginine.
 - 4. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the concentration of the antibacterial ester compound is present at a concentration of about 0.02% to 2% by weight.
- 5. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a mixture of nonionic and zwitterionic surfactants.
 - 6. A composition of claim 1 wherein said polyhydric alcohol is propylene glycol.
- 35 7. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the humectant is a mixture of polyhydric alcohols.